

REMARKS

This Amendment is being filed in response to the Office Action mailed December 31, 2007, which has been reviewed and carefully considered. Reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the amendments made above and the remarks to follow are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 and 10-12 remain in this application, where claim 9 is canceled without prejudice and claims 1-2 and 10 are independent claims. Applicant reserves the right to reintroduce subject matter deleted herein at a later time during the prosecution of this application or continuing applications.

By means of the present amendment, the drawings have been amended to include reference designations 15, 16, 59 and A1 with a corresponding arrow in FIG 2, in conformance with the specification, such as page 6, lines 21 and 34, and page 7, lines 31. A replacement sheet including FIG 2 is enclosed. Applicant respectfully requests approval of the enclosed proposed drawing changes.

By means of the present amendment, the specification has been amended to correct certain informalities.

By means of the present amendment, claims 1-8 and 10-12 have been amended for non-statutory reasons, such as beginning the dependent claims with 'The' instead of 'A', changing "characterized in that" to --wherein--, and deleting reference numerals typically used in European practice that are known to not limit the scope of the claims. Such amendments to claims 1-8 and 10-12 were not made in order to address issues of patentability and Applicant respectfully reserves all rights under the Doctrine of Equivalents.

In the Office Action, the Examiner suggested adding headings to the specification. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the Examiner's suggestion, however respectfully declines to add the headings as they are not required in accordance with MPEP §608.01(a), and could be inappropriately used in interpreting the specification.

In the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant gratefully acknowledges the indication that claims 2, 4-8 and 10-12 contain patentable subject matter. By means of the present amendment, claims 2 and 10 have been rewritten in independent form. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that

independent claims 2 and 10 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claims 4-8 and 11-12 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claims 2 and 10, as well as their individually patentable elements.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,488,269 (El-Hamamasy). Further, claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over El-Hamamasy in view of Hendricks and U.S. Patent No. 6,362,575 (Chang). It is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 3 are patentable El-Hamamasy and Chang for at least the following reasons.

El-Hamamasy is directed to a multi-resonant boost power factor correction circuit that includes a driver circuit for alternately switching devices via a dead time control, for selecting a dead time after one of the devices switches off and the other device switches on.

It is respectfully submitted that El-Hamamasy does not teach or suggest the present invention as recited in independent claim 1 which, amongst other patentable elements, recites (illustrative emphasis provided):

wherein said at least one arrangement and a corresponding diode are designed to allow the voltage over an opened switch of said at least one arrangement to return to substantially zero before said opened switch is closed, the control unit being designed to provide a signal for closing the opened switch when a substantially zero voltage over said opened switch is detected.

These features are nowhere taught or suggested in El-Hamamasy. Rather, El-Hamamasy merely discloses providing a dead time after one of the devices switches off and the other device switches on. This in no way teaches or suggests allowing the voltage over an opened switch to return to substantially zero before the opened switch is closed, as recited in independent claim 1. Chang is cited to allegedly show other features and does not remedy the deficiencies in El-Hamamasy.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that independent claim 1 be allowed. In addition, it is respectfully submitted that claim 3 should also be allowed at least based on their dependence from independent claim 1.

In addition, Applicant denies any statement, position or averment of the Examiner that is not specifically addressed by the foregoing argument and response. Any rejections and/or points of argument not addressed would appear to be moot in view of the

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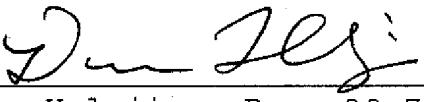
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Amendment in Reply to Office Action of December 31, 2007

presented remarks. However, the Applicant reserves the right to submit further arguments in support of the above stated position, should that become necessary. No arguments are waived and none of the Examiner's statements are conceded.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Replacement drawing sheet (1 sheet including FIG 2)

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